

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A biopsy needle ~~of the biopsy type or for taking other samples from human or animal organs~~, comprising an external cannula and a closing stem ~~which can adapted to slide inside the cannula, characterized in that wherein~~ the cannula (~~1; 101; 201; 301; 401~~) has, ~~for a certain stretch~~ in the vicinity of the an opening, one portion having a relatively small thickness (~~s~~) and one portion of larger thickness (~~s1~~) set at ~~the a~~ penetrating mouth of the cannula, the two portions of cannula of different thickness forming together a step (~~1-D; 101-D; 201-D; 301-D; 401-D~~) set inside the cannula and developed along a plane (~~W~~) inclined with respect to ~~the an~~ axis (~~X-X; X1-X1~~) of the cannula; and in that inserted between the cannula (~~1; 101; 201; 301; 401~~) and the stem (~~3; 103; 203; 303; 403~~) is a withholding element (~~5; 105; 205; 305; 405~~) ~~which can adapted to slide axially independently of the stem and of the cannula, and which has, in the vicinity of the mouth of the cannula, one end provided with a tab-like an extension (5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C), which, with its said extension sliding with respect to the cannula and in the direction of the mouth of the cannula, is said extension designed to engage with said inclined step (1-D; 101-D; 201-D; 301-D; 401-D) and to undergo deflection so as to close the mouth of the cannula and to withhold a tissue specimen inside the needle.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according, to ~~Claim claim~~ 1, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ said tab-like extension (~~5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C~~) has a restricted region (~~5D; 105D; 205D; 305D; 405D~~) for connection with the withholding element (~~5; 105; 205; 305; 405~~) so as to facilitate said deflection.

3. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said deflection of said ~~tab-like~~ extension (5C, 105C, 205C, 305C, 405C) takes place beyond the elastic limit of the latter and is generally permanent, in such a way that at least said withholding element (5) is ~~of the~~ disposable type.

4. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~tab-like~~ extension (105C) has side walls (105E) designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

5. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the external cannula (1, 101) has a polygonal cross section, ~~for example a square cross section.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the external cannula has a rounded cross section, ~~for example a circular or elliptical cross section.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to at least claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a sliding element (307, 407) designed to be set in contrast with the ~~tab~~ (305C, 405C) extension to re-open said ~~tab~~ extension so as to facilitate extraction of the tissue specimen without damaging it.

8. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1 and ~~particularly suited~~ adapted for taking intra-osseous samples, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cannula has a penetrating end which is truncated at right angles with respect to the axis of the needle and is provided with a serrated edge, and in that the closing stem ~~(413)~~ has a faceted tip.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~tab-like~~ extension ~~(105C)~~ has side walls ~~(105E)~~ designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

11. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~tab-like~~ extension ~~(105C)~~ has side walls ~~(105E)~~ designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

12. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~it comprises~~ further comprising a sliding element ~~(307; 407)~~ designed to be set in contrast with the ~~tab~~ extension ~~(305C; 405C)~~ to re-open said ~~tab~~ extension so as to facilitate extraction of the tissue specimen without damaging it.